From:
To:
A303 Stoneheng

Subject: Redetermination of A303 Stonehenge scheme

Date: 31 March 2022 08:22:30

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I am deeply concerned by the adverse impact which the proposed dual carriageway will have on one of our greatest, most ancient national monuments, an integral part of the south-western landscape for 5000 years. If the scheme goes ahead without redetermination, UNESCO will most likely strip Stonehenge of its World Heritage Site status.

It is profoundly distressing that a site recognized for its universal value is being treated as if it has no national value. The scheme, without sympathetic changes, cuts into our national character and international reputation as much as into the western area of the archaeological landscape itself. Stones do "talk."

I am disappointed that National Highways has not made any changes to the Scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee Decision into account or fully assessed alternative, less damaging routes.

It has ignored all objections to the scheme, including those expressed by the British public and UNESCO. It has disregarded suggestions for a cheaper southern bypass or a longer tunnel. National Highways has not updated construction costs or the carbon assessment and costs. It has not prepared vital measures to reduce road traffic and road emissions or encourage nature recovery. This is profoundly damaging in the context of climate change and concerns about our fragile environment, and a betrayal of the significance and symbolism of the Stonehenge site.

I believe these are all compelling grounds for a re-examination by an independent panel before the Secretary of State redetermines an application for a DCO for the very same road scheme.

Yours faithfully,

Pippa Rathborne

